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The Signal



Friday, June 24, 2005

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

Vol. 25, No. 25

News UPDATE

Independence Day celebration

The Fort Gordon Independence Day celebration is **Thursday** at Barton Field.

Activities include music by the Signal Corps band, carnival rides, an animal exhibit, face painting, pony rides, fireworks and more.

Activities begin at 3:30 p.m.; fireworks at 9:30 p.m. For information call 791-6779.

Change of command

The 56th Signal Battalion is having a change of command at 9 a.m. **today** at Barton Field (rain location Gym #3).

Lt. Col. Olen Kelley relinquishes command to Lt. Col. Stephen Middleton.

For information, call Sgt. Frank Lewis at 791-5210.

Blood drive

The 56th Signal Battalion and Kendrick Memorial Blood Center are having a blood drive from 6 a.m.-2 p.m. **Thursday** at the Fort Gordon Credit Union and Gordon Lanes bowling center. There will be prizes, T-shirts and bowling passes given for donors. For more information call 787-1014.

Membership breakfast

The AFCEA, AUSA and SCRA annual general membership breakfast is 7 a.m. **today** at the Gordon Club.

The guest speaker is Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commander.

Cost for the buffet is \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. For information or tickets, call Robbe Ostby at 793-3500, Amy Tuschen at 791-7815, or Ron Saeger at 364-9800.

Campus info

Augusta State University is having a campus visitation from 1-3 p.m. **Saturday** in ASU's University Hall. Campus representatives will be on hand to show students how to register, apply for financial aid, sign up for housing and more.

Faculty members from several academic departments will also be available to answer specific questions about majors and more. For information call 737-1632.

ID card office hours

The Identification Card section, Room 161, Darling Hall, is closed **July 11-12** for a hardware update.

For information call 791-1927.



Photo by Marlene Thompson

Sharp entrance

Staff Sgt. Gregory Celesky, a platoon sergeant for Company B, 67th Signal Battalion, and his wife Angie arrive at the Signal Ball Friday at the Gordon Club, as the Signal Corps celebrated its 145th birthday. Celesky also received the Albert J. Meyer award for his contributions to the advancement of the Signal Corps.

Recruiters show off medical sites

Charmain Z. Brackett

Contributing writer

Helping college students make informed career choices is Ken Bursaw's job.

"I've been on a few trips, and I find it extremely informative," said Bursaw, director of student employment/cooperative education at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Minn., one of a contingent of educators who visited Fort Gordon on Monday and Tuesday.

As recruiting numbers dip and the media casts a dark shadow on the military, tours of military facilities are important, said Staff Sgt. Sharon Nieves, U.S. Army Reserve Health Care Recruiter with the U.S. Army Health Care Recruiting Team, who helped escort the group.

"They are going to go sell the Army story for us," she said.

The group's tour focused on Army medicine with a trip to Eisenhower Army Medical Center and a look at an Army field hospital set up for the Golden Medic exercise.

They also took a tour of the installation, visited the PX and learned

about the history of the Signal Corps at the Signal Corps Museum.

"We show them how the Army conducts business," Nieves said.

Bursaw said he was interested in the field hospital and the procedures used to treat Soldiers in combat.

Dr. Jim Thompson of the University of Florida at Gainesville said the two days at Fort Gordon were "fantastic."

He made the trip because he wanted "to learn more about what opportunities the Army has for veterinarians."

Members of the group were particularly fascinated with the history of the Signal Corps as presented by Robert Anzuoni, director of the Signal Corps Museum. Several members of the tour group wanted to stay longer, even though their transportation had arrived.

Nieves offered to take the members back to their hotels so they could learn more about communication in the military since the Civil War.

"I knew absolutely nothing" about the Signal Corps, said Thompson. "I maybe knew a little about the wigwag flag."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Terrence L. Hayes

Col. Stephen G. Fogarty (right) assumed command of the NSA/CSS Georgia and 116th Military Intelligence Group June 16 at Barton Field.

New chief at security center

Staff Sgt. Terrence L. Hayes

NSA/CSS Georgia Public Affairs NCOIC

Col. Robert Carr relinquished command of NSA/CSS Georgia and the 116th Military Intelligence Group to Col. Stephen Fogarty in a change of command ceremony June 16 at Barton Field.

Carr is headed to a joint military intelligence assignment at the Pentagon in Washington.

"There's so many people to thank and I know I won't get to them all," he said

before he turned the Soldiers over to Fogarty. "The Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and civilians of NSA/CSS Georgia continue to perform successfully. Col. Fogarty is getting a proven organization."

Fogarty, a 22-year veteran and a native of Savannah, Ga., comes to NSA/CSS Georgia and the 116th MI Group from the U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., where he served as chief, Integrated Survey Program.

DoD cautions against 'loan-shark' lenders

Terri Lukach

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has launched a new effort to educate servicemembers about the dangers of borrowing from "loan-shark" lending companies and to teach them how to avoid ending up in a spiral of compounding debt, a DOD official said here Friday.

The most prevalent type of loan-shark lending affecting servicemembers is what is known as "payday loans," said John Molino, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy. "A payday loan is essentially a plug — money that gets you from today to the next payday so you can cover your bills."

The problem is that such loans are very expensive, he said.

"Typically, a payday loan of a \$100 will cost the borrower \$17 for two weeks," he said. "The average payday loan is about \$500, so now we're talking about a fee of \$85."

"By itself, that's not a big problem," he said. "However, when you consider that it is not uncommon for that military member to roll the loan over four or five times, that \$85 will grow exponentially to the point where you are paying an enormous amount of money for the relatively meager amount of the loan."

"It got you through payday, but if you weren't able to pay it off, now it's two more weeks, and two more weeks, and you're paying nearly 500 percent interest annually," he said. "That's a lot of money to pay."

Considering that about 9 percent of all enlisted

servicemembers and 12 percent of all midlevel noncommissioned officers use payday loans, the potential for detrimental effect on mission accomplishment is very real, Molino said.

"If you're in debt, you have other things in mind," he said. "You're doing things other than concentrating on the mission; maybe you're taking on other employment. The effects are long lasting and go deep into a person's performance; it affects unit readiness."

Part of the problem is the proximity of payday lenders to military installations.

"If you look at where they position their businesses, they are right outside the gate," Molino said.

A recent study of 15,000 payday lenders in more than 13,000 ZIP codes in 20 states

that have military installations revealed that payday lenders open their storefronts near the installations.

Molino said the department is taking steps, such as holding fairs at military installations, to educate servicemembers about the dangers of payday loans and familiarize them with ways to put themselves and their families on a sound financial footing.

"We can make (servicemembers) smarter," he said. "We can make them better consumers; we can teach them how to save for a rainy day, so when they need to borrow they can — and pay themselves back at no interest. We are also doing something about payday lenders."

Molino said his office is watching them closely, looking at behaviors and patterns that

are inconsistent with state law and encouraging states to pass laws that are not only friendly to servicemembers but also require honesty and discipline on the part of payday lenders.

Molino said Georgia, Florida and Oklahoma are states that have taken positive action against payday lenders. In 2004, Georgia passed legislation that eliminated payday lending from the state, he said, while Florida and Oklahoma now require a 24-hour waiting period between payday loans, thus eliminating rollovers and multiple loans.

"We believe we need to work hard to limit the impact of payday lenders, but the real answer is to help our servicemembers and their families get control of their own finances to be in charge of their future," Molino said.

Dinosaurs invade Augusta

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

Lifelike robotic dinosaurs will invade the National Science Center's Fort Discovery for four months beginning Saturday.

"The last time the dinosaurs were here our membership grew by 94 percent, people wanted to see more exhibits," said Kathi Dimmock, marketing director.

Two years ago, a similar exhibit of dinosaurs created by the Kokoro Dinosaurs Inc. in Los Angeles was held at the science center. This exhibit features different land, sea and air dinosaurs, she said.

The makers of the dinosaurs work with paleontologists to ensure the creatures are historically accurate, said Dimmock.

Among the creatures at the center are a stegosaurus, mosasaurus, elasmosaurus and a 3/4 scale Tyrannosaurus Rex.

In addition to nine robotic dinosaurs, there will be a dinosaur dig area for children to learn about the job of an archaeologist, and a dinosaur rub station.

The exhibit will be used with some of the summer camp activities at the center and for educational programs when school begins in the fall.

There will be a special dinosaur-related presentation in the



Photo by Charmain Brackett

Dewayne Williams and Kiyo Yanagihashi put together a dinosaur for Fort Discovery's new Dinosaurs exhibit that opens Saturday.

Paul S. Simon Discovery Theater as well.

Held in the Knox Gallery, the dinosaur exhibit is free with

paid admission to the science center at One Seventh St. It will be on display through Oct. 30.

Admission is \$8 for adults

and \$6 for children, senior citizens and active duty military.

For information, call 821-0200.

Spend time in 'Hundred Acre Woods'

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

The beloved childhood stories of "Winnie the Pooh" will be presented at Hopelands Gardens in Aiken at 7 p.m. today.

An all-children cast of the Aiken Community Playhouse's youth wing will bring to life the characters of Winnie The Pooh, Kanga, Roo, Owl, and other characters in the Hundred Acre Wood through the production.

"The AA Milne books have always been some of my favorites," said director Jen-

nifer Cudworth Greer, whose earliest theater performances included a youth wing performance in the gardens.

Hopelands Gardens is located on the corner of Whiskey Road and Dupree Place in Aiken. The performance is free. Call (803) 648-1438 for more information.

DUSK WALK

A relaxing hike through Phinizy Swamp Nature Park around dusk is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Phinizy Swamp Nature Park is a 1,100-acre nature preserve not far from the Augusta Regional Airport and is home to many creatures such as the blue heron,

red-shouldered hawk, alligator, tree frog and dragonfly. For more information, call 828-2109.

CRUISE-IN

The CSRA Mustang Club will be the host organization of Saturday's last Saturday cruise-in at the Sno-Cap Restaurant on West Avenue in North Augusta from 7-9 p.m.

Built in 1964, the Sno-Cap Restaurant has a nostalgic theme and has a monthly cruise-in for people to see different types of cars, play games and meet people.

For more information, call 279-4004.

Science center electrifies Youth Services students

Kristy Davies
Signal staff

If you can't go to them, they will come to you.

The National Science Center's Fort Discovery arrived at the Child and Youth Services building Monday and Tuesday to exhibit its enhanced outreach science demonstration program, Science To Go.

On Monday, approximately 45 elementary students, ranging in ages from 6 to 10 years, filed into the gymnasium to see Arcs and Sparks, an electricity demonstration which includes melting steel wool, actually seeing an electric current, lightning, static electricity and a plasma ball.

"We are enhancing the science program," said Waymon Stewart, science demonstrations project manager for The National Science Center's Fort Discovery in Augusta. "After the demonstration, we will ask students and teachers for their opinion and do an evaluation on the program."

The demonstration was brought to CYS by Fort Discovery at no charge to evaluate the new program.

Rufus Moore, a demonstrator for Fort Discovery, started by asking the students if they have ever rubbed their feet on carpet to build up static electricity and shocked someone.

The kids laughed and giggled

as they realized how cool electricity was and how it is used in their lives every day. The kids were in awe as they watched an electrical current flow from one metal rod to another and even more amazed sounds came from them as they watched the Tesla Coil create lightning.

The enhancements of the program include larger equipment like you would see at the actual museum. According to Moore it makes a difference.

"It has a greater impact," said Moore. "Sometimes it was a little harder to see a light bulb light up in a gymnasium because of the smaller size of the equipment."

Moore and his assisting demonstrator, Jeff Amaro, not only explained to the children how electricity works in its different forms, but they also stressed safety.

The two also used volunteers from the audience to demonstrate electricity.

"It's a lot of fun working with the kids and working the demonstrations," said Moore.

"(Electricity) is one of my favorite topics," Moore continued. "My favorite is liquid nitrogen. We take it around and show the students how objects react to different temperatures."

"We also use Alka-Seltzer in our demonstrations where we set off film canisters like rockets (and) we'll have a little



Photos by Kristy Davies

Destiny Russell discovers that a Van de Graaf generator causes her hair to stand up, causing amazement and laughter for the elementary students at The National Science Center's Fort Discovery Science To Go program demonstration at CYS on Monday.

rocket race," Moore added with a child-like smile.

As their flagship program, Arcs and Sparks is just one of four programs The National Science Center offers through

Science To Go.

The Science To Go outreach demonstration program is grouped into three audience ranges including hands-on Discovery Labs To Go for audiences up to 30 students, a small assembly program for up to 60 students and the large assembly program for up to 300 students.

"We want people to know of the availability of the program," added Moore. "A lot of teachers don't know exactly what we are able to bring and we do this all year round."

Demonstrations on motion, sound, magnetism and other scientific topics are also available.



Fort Discovery's Science To Go program demonstrator, Rufus Moore, explains how electrical current flows from a plasma ball through Jayden Lynch and Dameien Rogers to light up a small fluorescent light bulb.

Intel officers wanted

Sgt Tricia Ortiz
Special to the Signal

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — There has never been a better time to submit your packet for the U. S. Army military intelligence warrant officer program, says Chief Warrant Officer Eddie Mallard, command chief warrant officer, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command.

The Army is expanding the number of warrant officer applications it's accepting in all military intelligence fields.

"This opportunity is a great way to advance your career and earn the prestige of being called

a U.S. Army MI warrant officer," said Mallard. "Only two percent of the U.S Army Soldiers are in the warrant officer program.

This makes the warrant program a small elite corps and the commanders' trusted advisors. The Army teaches specialized technical training to this trusted cadre and that let's them serve not just as advisors, but as mentors to junior officers and Soldiers as well as the voice of experience to the command," he said.

He also added there are other advantages on becoming a warrant officer, such as increased basic pay, faster promotions,

an extended career path and challenging assignments.

"I personally decided to become a warrant officer because of the respect and leadership that professional senior warrants command; and then, there are the promotion advantages," said Mallard.

There are various trainings and job opportunities in the MI field for qualified service members who have a MI background and want to become an Army intelligence warrant officer. The ideal candidate must have five to eight years of service, with four years of operational experience in the MI field. Additional requirements

for the program are candidates must have a GT score of 110 or higher and should not have achieved the age of 46 years.

Mallard, takes great pleasure in knowing he made a difference to subordinates, and has professional pride in the many accomplishments he has made during his years in the Army.

Soldiers interested in applying to become an intelligence warrant officer, should contact Mallard at (703) 428-4655 or e-mail **eddie.mallard@us.army.mil**. For more information about the warrant officer program, go to **www.usarec.army.mil/warrant**.



Photo by Kristy Davies

Ouch

A collision occurred Tuesday after the driver of a BMW failed to yield to the right of way to a Hyundai, at the intersection of Brainard Avenue and Rice Road. According to military police, both drivers are Soldiers stationed here; there were no reported injuries. The driver of the BMW was cited for failure to yield the right of way.



Photo by Sarah K. Crisp

Time for a cat?

Fort Gordon Veterinary Services currently has a number of animals available for adoption, including this calico, Eleanor. Adoption fee is \$60 which includes spay or neuter, microchip and vaccinations. For information, call 787-3815.

AER

From page 1

In addition to raising the money to help families in emergency situations, the campaign raised the awareness of what AER is and how it can assist, said Adams.

While many Soldiers received certificates for their efforts, four were recognized further. Sgt. 1st Class Sean Parijs, Staff Sgt.

Nichlous Neal and Sgt. Darryl Moore each received an Army Commendation Medal, and 1st Lt. Irvin McLaughlin received an Army Achievement Medal.

"The mission of AER speaks to the heart of the Army caring for its own," said Vanessa Stanley, Army Community Service director.

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Sobering thought: The ‘I’ in DUI

Lt. Col. Matthew Flood
Air Force Print news

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany – You have all seen the commercials that warn about the dangers of drunk driving. You also have probably heard numerous testimonials from servicemembers who drove their vehicles after drinking too much, only to meet some tragic end. You may have even taken the time to read an article such as this, that warns of the dangers of drunk driving. But, do these messages affect the behavior of the intended audience? The Air Force has expended tremendous resources devising “user friendly” and “foolproof” plans to help Airmen make the right decision when it comes to drinking and driving. We have Combat Wingman, Airmen Against Drunk Driving and free non-alcoholic drinks for designated drivers, just to mention a few.

Unfortunately, in spite of all the programs and services available, there is still a small percentage of people who will drink and drive. So, when it came time for me to develop a DUI briefing, I struggled with what I could possibly say to convince people not to become a statistic. I initially tried an appeal to an Airman’s conscience. I pointed out the increased burden being placed on his co-workers to pick up his slack while he attends the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment program and legal office appointments. Because the Airman will no longer have a driver’s license, he may not be able to do his primary job, requiring an increased work load on his peers. He won’t be able to get to work without assistance, so again co-workers will have to shoulder the burden. Finally, there is the loss of a goal day for the entire squadron. A day that should be spent with family and friends or just relaxing from the high

operational tempo will now be spent working. I felt it would be patently obvious to everyone that a foolish and selfish decision that resulted in a DUI affects many more people than just the guilty party. Then it dawned on me. Some of these DUI offenders aren’t altruistic. Maybe they aren’t concerned about inconveniencing others. So I set out to reattack the problem. My first sergeant came up with some figures on what a DUI actually costs a senior airman (E-4). The most common punishment for a DUI here is an Article 15, loss of a stripe, some additional duty and possibly a monetary garnishment. As painful as that sounds, it is only the tip of the iceberg. Because of the loss of rank, the servicemember will receive less base pay, less cost-of-living allowance and won’t get promoted to staff sergeant (E-5) with his peers. During that promotion delay, the Airman

will lose more than \$10,000 in direct compensation. These costs don’t even take into account the incessant taxi fares required to get anywhere. When the Airman is able to drive again, auto insurance will cost, on average, an additional \$4,000 per year. Worse yet, since lost time can not be made up, the effects of reduced earnings will escalate with time and be felt for an entire career. For NCOs and officers the costs are even greater. And for those who don’t plan to make the Air Force a career, a DUI conviction will follow them into the civilian world. A DUI will make them an unattractive candidate for most jobs and outright ineligible for some. The monetary cost of a DUI for military personnel is sobering; or at least it should be. From a purely selfish viewpoint, drinking and driving doesn’t make much sense.

Feedback...

What more can be done to combat drinking and driving?

By Kristy Davies



Stricter penalties, loss of driver's license for a year for the first time. Second time take their license forever. You can't prevent it totally, (because) there are some illegal drivers out there and if they're caught, then some time in jail.
Gladys McKinney
PX vendor



Stiffer penalties for first time drunk drivers so they can get the message. If that doesn't work, take away their license and confinement.
Alice Hilliard
Fort Gordon PX



I think the law should be stricter. I've had a girlfriend that's gotten three DUIs and she's still driving. Her license was suspended, but she doesn't seem to care. Take their license away, jail time and whatever it takes to keep them from driving drunk.
Debbie Teasley
PX vendor representative



I think people should be educated more on the (consequences) of drinking and driving, especially in this area, with the young people. This is something that should be instilled from growing up in a family environment.
Dorothy Young
Fort Gordon PX



Education is still a big key. You need to educate the people on the harmful affects of drinking and driving. It's not what you can do to yourself, but what you can do to someone else. That's what is real critical and it affects a lot of lives.
Paul Weaver
Tifton, Ohio



They ought to do like they do in Germany. Take away their license. Mandatory license revocation for a year or more and put them on a bicycle. Education and definitely stiffer penalties.
Gail Amstutz
Retired military

Private Murphy ‘Wanna bet?’



By Mark Baker

FORT FACTS

Fort Gordon’s environmental policy

Fort Gordon’s Environmental Policy Statement was signed by the garrison commander in October 2004. The policy explains our commitment to sustain our environment in order for future generations to use it. Fort Gordon’s policy states: Stewardship of Fort Gordon’s natural and cultural resources is integral to the installation’s mission now and in the future. Such stewardship

demands that we simply comply with applicable policies, laws, and regulations and that we also actively embrace sustainability as a means of ensuring mission accomplishment. We are all stewards of Fort Gordon’s natural and cultural resources and must act to identify pollution sources and implement procedures to minimize or mitigate their effects. We must also address previ-

ously contaminated sites to protect the health of our current residents and the environment around us. As leaders and citizens, we are committed to protect and conserve the natural and cultural resources the people of the United States have entrusted to us. We must be vigilant in our active pursuit of continuous improvement in our environmental and natural resources program.

Examples of the implementing the policy

- Well-sustained training lands support outdoor recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and more.
- Well-maintained vehicles create less pollution
- Wash vehicles only at designated sites
- Cut trees only when authorized by the chain of command
- Use trash collection sites instead of burying trash

- Keep refueling operations 200 meters from streams and wetlands. You drink the water that comes from the installation
- Fill all holes, fighting positions and tank ditches after training
- Use drip pans and catch pans when conducting refueling operations
- Use drip pans under all parked vehicles
- Empty washwater from field mess sites and bath and laundry sites

- only at authorized locations
- Dig only at sites approved in accordance with installation policy
- Treat animals with respect. Do not harass wildlife
- Avoid marked threatened and endangered species habitat areas
- Keep hazardous waste containers closed except when filling or emptying
- Use only approved cleaning products

The Signal

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Army awards Silver Stars for turning table on ambush

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – The first female Soldier since World War II was awarded a Silver Star in Iraq June 16, and seven other members of her National Guard military police company received citations for valor after helping turn the tide of a convoy ambush earlier this spring. Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester received the Silver Star, the Army’s third highest award for valor, in a morning ceremony at Camp Liberty, Iraq. Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein and Spc. Jason Mike also received Silver Stars at the ceremony.

Three other members of the same squad received a Bronze Star with valor device: Spc. Casey Cooper, Spc. William Haynes II and Spc. Ashley Pullen. Sgt. Dustin Morris and Spc. Jesse Ordunez received an Army Commendation Medal with valor device. All are members of the Kentucky National Guard’s 617th Military Police Company.

The Soldiers thwarted an insurgent attack against a coalition convoy March 20. The convoy of 26 supply vehicles was ambushed by about 40 insurgents south-east of Baghdad.

The 45-minute firefight left 27 insurgents dead, six wounded, and one captured. Three of the 617th Soldiers were wounded.

The MPs also confiscated a sizable weapons cache, including 22 AK-47 machine guns, 13 RPK rifles, six rocket-propelled grenade launchers, 16 RPG rockets, and about 40 hand grenades.

MPs SHADOW 18-WHEELERS
The firefight took place the morning of March 20, as the squad of Kentucky MPs were shadowing a convoy on a supply route southeast of Baghdad.

Twenty-six supply vehicles, many of which were 18-wheelers, were heading south on the heavily traveled route. They were driving one behind the other like ducks in a row, with a security convoy of three gun trucks interlaced between – one up front, one in the middle, one in the rear.

Trailing the convoy and not far out of sight were the 617th MPs in three armored Humvees.

Each Humvee contained a trio of Soldiers, each laden with weapons and gear, except for the trail vehicle, which also carried a medic. Gunners stood ready in the turrets with .50-caliber machine guns and Mark-19 grenade launchers.

The vehicle commanders, drivers and medic kept their eyes peeled and weapons at the ready just in case something out of the ordinary happened. That morning,



Photo by Spc. Jeremy Crisp

Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, vehicle commander, 617th Military Police Company, Richmond, Ky., stands at the position of attention before receiving the Silver Star at an awards ceremony at Camp Liberty, Iraq, June 16. Hester is the first female Soldier serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom to receive the Silver Star.

something did.

AMBUSH KICKS UP DUST
“We observed the convoy we were trailing starting to make erratic movements,” said Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein, leader, second squad.

“We saw a lot of dust being kicked up by the convoy vehicles, as if they were being engaged by an (improvised explosive device) or an ambush, so we knew something was wrong.

“My gunner said he could hear shots being fired, so we picked up the pace,” Nein said.

“We moved to contact,” Nein said. “We got the vehicles on the contact side, in between the convoy and the insurgents. As we got up on that side of the road, we realized through previous reconnaissance of the area that there was a road that paralleled the field going south.”

MPs FLANK INSURGENTS
The squad then proceeded down the main road and took a right onto the side road to flank the insurgents. “At that time,” Nein said, “We noticed seven vehicles the insurgents had staged and ready.

“Doors open, trunks open; ready for a quick escape. Once we turned down that road, the insurgents didn’t have a choice but to stay and fight. We had just cut off their escape route.”

As soon as the squad rolled into the fray, the insurgents adjusted fire.

“As we came on the scene, the insurgents’ fire all shifted,” said Nein. “They realized who they needed to fire on.

“They quickly shifted all fire from the transportation convoy to us. As soon as we cut back to get in between the convoy and the insurgents, the windshield of my driver (Sgt. Dustin Morris) took two direct hits. The bullets failed to defeat the armored glass,” Nein said.

HUMVEE ARMOR HELPS MPs
Atop the same truck was .50-cal. gunner Spc. Casey Cooper. He said when they turned down the side road, massive gunfire was coming their way.

Rounds from small arms came toward them and impacted the rear door and its window, which yet again failed to penetrate the Humvee’s armor. What happened next shocked and stunned Cooper.

“I just saw something coming at me, and fast. It just so happened to be a (rocket propelled grenade),” he said.

The round impacted right above the rear passenger door, right below where Cooper was positioned in the turret.

“It knocked me out – completely unconscious,” he said.

See Silver Star, page 11

FEW gives awards, names new officers

The Fort Gordon Federally Employed Women’s organization presented awards at its monthly meeting June 8.

Lula Whitehead, the current president of the Garden City Chapter of FEW, received the RUTH Award. The RUTH Award goes to the FEW member annually for going the extra mile in dedicated service and commitment to the Garden City Chapter. The award is depicted from the story of Ruth in the Bible.

Jeanne Stewart was awarded the Presidential Award in recognition of her unrelenting efforts and outstanding support to the organization. Stewart has been the Program Chairman for the

past two years.

New officers for 2005-’07 were also announced for the group. They are:

President: Lula Whitehead
Vice president: Rose Mary Marshall

Vice president – membership: Evelyn Vernon

Vice president – programming: Jolayne Frentzel

Recording secretary: Renita Savage

Corresponding secretary: Mary Jones

Treasurer: Janet McElmurray

The group meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the Gordon Club.

(Information provided by FEW.)

2006 Thunderbirds team includes first female demonstration pilot

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. – U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, “Thunderbirds,” officials announced their new pilots for the 2006 demonstration season which includes the first female demonstration pilot in the 52-year history of the Thunderbirds.

Capt. Nicole Malachowski, of the 494th Fighter Squadron at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, joins the team as the first female demonstration pilot on any U.S. military high performance jet team.

The multirole fighter can achieve speeds of 1,500 mph and reach altitudes up to 50,000 feet (15 kilometers).

Lt. Col. Kevin Robbins, from the Air Force Weapons School here, was selected to be the lead pilot and the squadron commander.

Capt. Ed Casey, of the 56th Training Squadron at Luke AFB, Ariz., was the other new demonstration pilot named to the team.

Capt. Tad Clark, of the 52nd Operations Support Squadron at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, is the new advanced

pilot and narrator.

Returning Thunderbird pilots include Maj. Rusty Keen, Steve Horton, Brian Farrar and Jeremy Sloane.

The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron is an Air Combat Command unit comprising eight pilots, six of whom are demonstration pilots; four support officers; four civilians; and about 120 enlisted Airmen in more than 29 career specialties.

A Thunderbirds' demonstration is a mix of six aircraft performing formation flying and solo routines. The four-aircraft diamond formation demonstrates the training and precision of Air Force pilots, while the solos highlight the maximum capabilities of the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

The team's first performance was June 8, 1953, at Luke.

Since then, the Thunderbirds have flown for more than 310 million people at 3,944 air demonstrations in all 50 states and more than 60 foreign countries.

(Courtesy of ACC News Service.)



Courtesy photo

Capt. Nicole Malachowski.

Sergeants major award scholarships

The Fort Gordon Sergeants Major Association held its annual scholarship awards recently and awarded three \$500 scholarships.

Each year, the group awards the three scholarships to three high school graduating seniors. The scholarships are named the Sergeants Major Strickland and Ivory, and Command Sergeant Major Wilson Scholarship Awards, in honor of the three fallen Soldiers.

Strickland and Ivory were killed during the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on September 11, and Wilson, a native of Thompson, Ga., was killed during an ambush in Mosul, Iraq, in November 2003.

The winners of the scholarship awards are selected based upon an essay.

Alisha Simmons won the Strickland scholarship for her essay on the Gullah culture.

Simmons graduated from Greenbrier High School with a 3.56 GPA. Other academic achievements include: The Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete for 2003, and 2004; the 2005 Wendy's Heisman Nominee; the Morris Museum of Art Essay winner; and she is a Georgia Hope Scholarship recipient.

Simmons' father is Sgt. Maj. Alfred Simmons, the Fort Gordon retention sergeant major.

The Ivory scholarship was presented to Dominique Brock for her essay on “The War of 1812.” Brock graduated from Hephzibah High School with a 3.76 GPA. Her academic achievements include: being inducted into the Who's Who Among American High School students; she is an All American Scholar; she is on the National Honor Roll, and was chosen to be part of the United

States Honor Society.

The Wilson scholarship was awarded to Danica Deal for her essay on “My Forgotten Hero,” a story about Pfc. Dennis Alonzo Osby, a World War II veteran and a member of the 761st Negro Tank Battalion, the only African American ground fighting unit in Europe during World War II.

Deal's forgotten hero, Osby, also happens to be her grandfather. Deal plans to attend Augusta State University in the fall, majoring in biology.

She dedicates some of her time to the Georgia War Veterans, the Greater Augusta Blacks in Government, the Fort Gordon Service Club, Creative Impressions, Butler High School Chorus, the Augusta Mini Theater, and the First Shiloh Baptist Association.

(Information provided by the Sergeants Major Association.)

30 years later, Vietnam vets get overdue welcome home

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

BRANSON, Mo. – Thirty years after the last U.S. forces left Vietnam, tens of thousands of veterans of that conflict gathered here in the Ozark Mountains June 14 to get the official welcome home and thanks they never received.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson, a Vietnam veteran himself, thanked his fellow veterans who “were there to share and shoulder the burden of the Vietnam War on behalf of our country.”

Secretary Nicholson addressed the group during the opening ceremonies for “Operation Homecoming USA.”

“It is my privilege as your comrade and as your secretary of Veterans Affairs to thank you for your service and your sacrifice,” Nicholson told the group. He extended his appreciation to families and loved ones “who worried about us and prayed for us” while in Vietnam.

The weeklong Operation Homecoming USA is planned as a belated homecoming celebration and a time of healing for veterans who still bear the scars of the war, said Skip Palmer, an event organizer and Vietnam veteran.

“We carried the burden of the anti-war protests ourselves, and a lot of veterans are still carrying that burden,” Palmer said. “This is a symbolic opportunity to help them lift that burden.”

Many Vietnam veterans received no acknowledgements when they returned from the war, and those who did were often scorned rather than embraced.

“We got the spits, the yells, the eggs. It wasn’t fun,” said Will Boyd, a former Marine who served two back-to-back tours in Vietnam between 1969 and 1971. “I’m here to bury a 35-year-old resentment.”

Gary Baly, a Sailor who ran river boat patrols in Vietnam in 1967 and 1968, said he “held a lot inside for many years” after returning home from the war. “I’m hoping this will be a chance for me to let some of that out,” he said of his visit here.

Some participants, like Don Brown, who served in Vietnam with the 1st Air Cavalry in 1969 to 1970, said they came to Operation Homecoming USA because they wanted to be part of “a historic event.”

“There’s a brotherhood of



Photo by Donna Miles

Vietnam veterans check for familiar names at the "Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall," the largest of several "traveling" replicas of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. The wall was recently on display during Operation Homecoming USA in Branson, Mo.

Vietnam veterans, and I wanted to be a part of this,” he said.

The city’s people gave a royal welcome to the Operation Homecoming USA participants, with flags and signs everywhere greeting the veterans and thanking them for their service. By the week’s end, Branson is expected to have 35,000 to 50,000 veterans visit, organizers said.

“It seems like this city has really opened up its arms to the veteran,” said Steven Schroder, who served in Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division in 1970 and 1971. “It feels good, and gives me a lot of pride.”

Festivities during the week include a parade, military reunions, award ceremonies, golf and fishing tournaments, aircraft displays and concerts by many of the performers who entertained troops during United Service Organizations shows in Vietnam.

Among the featured artists at the June 18 closing ceremony were the Beach Boys, the Fifth Dimension, the Doobie Brothers, the Supremes with Mary Wilson, the Oak Ridge Boys, Tony Orlando, Les Brown Jr. and Ann-Margret. Former armed forces radio disc jockey Adrian Cronauer, of “Good Morning, Vietnam!” fame, also partici-

pated in the activities, as well as the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales.

President Bush thanked the group for their service and sacrifice through a videotaped message, played during the closing ceremonies, and troops currently serving in Baghdad, Iraq, sent thanks via a live video feed.

“There won’t be a dry eye in the house,” one organizer said.

Operation Homecoming USA’s reach will extend beyond the Ozarks. Throughout the week, Major League Baseball franchises nationwide will feature salutes to Vietnam and other veterans during their games, Palmer said.

But the event is more than a big party, offering a variety of demonstrations and events that return veterans to their Vietnam experience. They can take rides in UH-1 Huey helicopters, attend military demonstrations and displays, watch an air show, and sit through presentations by representatives of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

Tents stretching throughout the main staging area offer participants an opportunity to sign up for counseling or veterans benefits, learn about veterans

organizations or simply catch up with former comrades.

Throughout the venue, veterans were seen shaking hands, slapping backs, sharing laughs and occasionally tears as they caught up on times passed.

“This is wonderful,” Boyd said. “It’s the family – the Marine Corps family, the military family. This is my lost tribe.”

“I’m honored to be in the company of comrades with whom I shared a life experience like no other,” Nicholson told the group. “We may not have served side by side or in one particular place or time together, (but) the bonds that join us are strong.”

Much of the emphasis during Operation Homecoming USA will be on a quiet reflection of those bonds. Stretching in front of the theater is a three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, engraved with the names of more than 58,000 veterans who died in Southeast Asia.

Thousands of veterans and their families crowded along the “Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall,” the largest of several “traveling” Vietnam memorial walls, to find the names of comrades or loved ones lost in the war.

Baly said he has never been to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, but planned to spend time at the replica here.

“I think I’m ready to take a look at that wall,” he said. “It’s kind of scary.”

Dewey Riehn, who served in Vietnam with the 524th Military Intelligence Detachment, said he is hopeful that this week’s events will help remind the American public and young people with no memory of the Vietnam War about the tremendous sacrifices made in Vietnam.

“We want people to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice,” he said. “When you look at those names on the wall – they all had hopes, aspirations, dreams and families that will never be realized. And it’s important that we remember them and what they did.”

Nicholson promised the veterans that the United States would not forget those sacrifices or the fate of missing prisoners of war and will stand by Vietnam veterans to ensure they get the benefits they deserve.

“You selflessly put yourselves in harm’s way,” he said. “And I pledge to you that Vietnam veterans will always receive the care and respect from your government that you deserve.”

Start your day off right

Chaplain (Maj.) Lou DelTufo
116th Military Intelligence Group

Have you ever overslept? You really need to be somewhere and the alarm, for some reason, fails to wake you up. There are a variety of reasons that the alarm failed. The power could have gone out or the “on” switch could have been “off.”

One time I set my alarm for the PM thinking it was for the AM. But when the alarm does go off, and the hand hits the “snooze,” sometimes over and over again, something else could be going on.

Little by little, you may find yourself at the point where you don’t get yourself out of bed until the exact minute that you need to. Even setting the alarm clock 10 minutes ahead of the actual time doesn’t do any good because you just subtract in your head. Also, you’ve done the calculations and you know exactly how long the “pre-day” routine takes.

After a few weeks of mastery, you’ve cut the “pre-day” routine down to only the essentials, and you still have some extra time to stay in bed. Sure, the morning is a little rushed, but those extra minutes of sleep sure are worth it, aren’t they?

Today, I’d like you to ask yourself, what are those “essentials” that need to be done first thing in the morning and what are the other

things that were cut out. Once the day gets going, some of those “pre-day” tasks easily get lost in the myriad of daily activities.

At the end of the day, it doesn’t matter what kind of good intentions you started the day with, certain things just don’t happen and won’t happen unless you take the time to do them first.

When I asked some of my co-workers about their early morning routines, I got answers like physical training, eating breakfast or reading the morning paper.

I also got a few responses of prayer and scripture reading. All of us agreed on one thing: If we don’t take the time to make something a priority early in the day, it just isn’t going to get done.

Whether it is doing early morning PT, or taking a few moments to pray, the cares of the world quickly infiltrate our day and seem to take over.

I encourage you to take time early in the day and set it aside as quiet-time to concentrate on spiritual health. Instead of hitting the snooze-button for eight more minutes of lying in bed, take that time to start the day off with God.

As the day soars by, it will certainly fill with physical, mental and emotional activities. But unless you take the time out of your day to make your spiritual activities an essential part of your day, they may become lost in your busy schedule.

Instead of hitting the snooze-button for eight more minutes of lying in bed, take that time to start the day off with God.

Family of missing serviceman copes

Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Defense Department annually briefs families of servicemen still missing in Southeast Asia, and in their quest for closure, mother and daughter Jeanette Lilly, 79, and Susan J. Harvey, 58, haven’t missed a meeting in more than 15 years.

Every time they come to Washington for the latest information, they learn something new, which inches them a little closer to closure toward accounting for Lilly’s son and Harvey’s brother, 1st Lt. Lawrence E. Lilly.

When he was shot down on March 17, 1971, Lilly was a member of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), flying as co-pilot of a Cobra helicopter gunship on a secret visual-reconnaissance mission over Cambodia.

The military report of the incident states that as the aircraft was near a landing zone, it was hit by enemy fire and forced to the ground deep inside Cambodia in the Snuol District of Kracheh province, near Seang village. The pilot, Capt. David P. Schweitzer, was rescued, but heavy enemy fire forced the rescue helicopter to leave the area before Lilly could be extracted.

Lilly, who was 26 years old, was last seen by U.S. personnel lying on his back with his shirt partially open and blood on his chest and neck. He was being fired on by Viet Cong forces, according to the report.

Harvey said that initially the military reported her brother missing but didn’t say anything about him being shot down and wounded.

“He was just missing,” Harvey noted. “My mom and dad lived in Ventura, Calif., then, and the newspaper there published a three-line notice saying he was missing – that’s all we knew.”

“Every year we come, and we learn more by reviewing the records,” said Harvey.

Harvey said that after 35 years her

brother doesn’t have any presence in her everyday life. “So you come here and talk to people and they don’t have the presence either. But it’s an opportunity to talk to them and bring it into the moment with people who are interested, including the government folks,” she said. “It just gives a forum to learn, share and to listen.”



Photo by Rudi Williams

Susan J. Harvey (left) and her mother, Jeanette Lilly, go through the case file of their missing loved one, Army 1st Lt. Lawrence E. Lilly, who was shot down over Cambodia on March 17, 1971. The two ladies haven’t missed a Defense Department annual prisoner of war and missing in action government briefing for families of servicemen still missing in Southeast Asia in more than 15 years.

Captains to be promoted sooner, serve as major for additional year

Cheryl Boujnida
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Army has increased its career developmental timeline for active-duty majors by one year, while shortening time spent as a captain.

The initiative, recently approved by Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey, will reduce pin-on time to major from 10 years and seven months to 10 years. In order to implement this, two major promotion boards will be conducted in Fiscal Year 2006.

The change sets the developmental timelines in synchronization with the Army’s modularity, transformation and intermediate-level education, or

ILE, requirements, said Col. Mark Patterson, chief, Officer Policy Division, G1, at the Pentagon.

“This will allow us to better manage our officers and meet the needs of an Army at war in the 21st century,” Patterson said. He explained that modularity and the new units of action have created a need for more majors in many career fields, but the real reason for the change is to allow majors time for a joint-service assignment.

“It’s key because it gives majors a joint assignment opportunity that they might not get prior to being promoted to lieutenant colonel or colonel.”

Majors currently serve five years before pinning on lieutenant colonel.

“The emphasis on joint operations is crucial – joint is the future. We need to look at joint assignment opportunities and how Soldiers get that experience,” Patterson said.

Beginning in 2007, no more waivers will be granted for joint service and colonels will need a joint assignment to be competitive for promotions, Patterson said.

The additional year requirement, initiated by the Officer Personnel Management System, or OPMS III, identified the need to further develop officers by expanding their career timeline.

“The extra year will benefit the officer and the military,” said Lt. Col. Craig Vest, branch chief, officer selection board

policy branch.

“This will definitely have a positive impact within the Army and enhance our overall captain retention rate,” Patterson said.

The reduction in time spent as a captain aligns the Army with other armed services; the Air Force and Marine Corps’ pin-on time to major is 10 years and three months, and the Navy’s is nine years and 11 months.

There will be two separate major promotion boards in FY 2006. The first board will convene Sept. 6, and the second in April.

“Leadership wants to ensure that officers in the field have the opportunity to start preparing their file for the September board,” Patterson said.

Silver Star *From page 6*

INJURED KEEP ON FIGHTING

Only sustaining minor shrapnel wounds around the right eye and hand, Cooper would be fine, but one Soldier in the group thought he was dead. The Soldier said he went up and shook Cooper, at which point he popped awake and started firing again.

In the vehicle following right behind Nein, Cooper, and Morris was 23-year-old Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, team leader and vehicle commander from Bowling Green, Ky. Hester and her crew saw the RPG hit the lead vehicle.

“Nein’s vehicle took a direct hit with an RPG as soon as we made that turn,” said Hester. “I heard it hit, saw the smoke, but we kept pushing on.

“I saw Staff Sgt. Nein jump out of the truck. As soon as I saw him jump out, I was right there,” Hester said. From there, Hester, Nein and company pressed their flanking advantage and engaged the enemy full force.

“On the right hand side was a berm. They were still shooting at us from there and from down in a trench line,” said Hester.

HESTER PRESSES FIRE

“So we returned fire. I think I shot off three M203 (grenade launcher) rounds,

and I don’t know how many M4 (assault rifle) rounds I shot. I know I hit one of the RPK (Russian-made light machine gun) gunners,” she said.

Nein and Hester were side by side, and both were being engaged with small arms fire.

“Both Sgt. Hester’s and my vehicles were being engaged by an insurgent with an RPK somewhere out in the orchard field,” Nein said. “I could also see an insurgent with an RPG trying to get around and fire on us.

We weren’t engaging him at the time, but I think he thought we were going to. He was peering out from behind a tree, so we eliminated him.”

Hester, Nein and their comrades continued to press the advantage, completely disrupting any plans the insurgents had at a successful attack. After the approximately 45-minute firefight, only three Soldiers from the 617th were wounded.

MPs TAKE TOLL ON ENEMY

Conversely, 27 insurgents were dead. Six others were wounded; one was captured. None escaped.

The MPs from second squad also ‘cached’ in, confiscating 22 AK-47 light

machine guns, 13 RPKs, 6 RPGs, 16 RPG rockets, 123 full AK-47 ammunition magazines, 52 empty AK-47 magazines, one full AK-47 (75) round ammunition drum, an estimated 200 loose AK-47 ammunition rounds, 2,500 (7.62mm) belted ammunition rounds, and 40 hand grenades.

CO LAUDS JOB WELL DONE

Capt. Todd M. Lindner, 617th company commander, said he went over the scenario in his head a hundred times to see what he might have done differently or done better. He said there was no better way than what his Soldiers did.

“They did exactly what they were supposed to do when supporting a convoy in that situation,” said Lindner. “What their mission was in shadowing that convoy was to provide support in the event of an attack. What they were supposed to do was place themselves in between the attacking force and the convoy.

“This would allow the convoy to escape the kill zone while they returned suppressive fire and ultimately defeated the enemy. That was exactly what they did.”

(This article is based on an MNC-I news release and a March 23 article by Spc. Jeremy Crisp of MNC-I Public Affairs.)

Community Events

Change of command

The U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon is having its change of command at 8 a.m. **July 15** at Barton Field.

Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks will relinquish command to Brig. Gen. Randolph Strong. Strong is currently the director, J-6, U.S. Pacific Command, Camp H.W. Smith, Hawaii.

A retirement ceremony for Hicks will follow the change of command. Hicks retires after 30 years in the Army.

Independence Day celebration

The Fort Gordon Independence Day celebration is **Thursday** at Barton Field.

Activities include music by the Signal Corps band, carnival rides, an animal exhibit, face painting, pony rides, fireworks and more.

Activities begin at 3:30 p.m.; fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

For information call 791-6779.

Blood drive

The 56th Signal Battalion and Kendrick Memorial Blood Center are having a blood drive from 6 a.m.-2 p.m. **Thursday** at the Fort Gordon Credit Union and Gordon Lanes bowling center. There will be prizes, T-shirts and bowling passes given for donors.

For more information call 787-1014.

Organization day

The 513th Military Intelligence Brigade is having its Organization Day at 6 a.m. **Thursday** in the 513th MI Bde. PT area; lunch served at 11 a.m.

For information, call Capt. Brenda Suggars at 791-8181.

Change of command

Task Force 201st is having its change of command at 8:30 a.m. **July 8** at Barton Field (rain location Gym 3).

Lt. Col. Robert Mikaloff relinquishes command to Lt. Col. John Birdsong.

For information, call Capt. Brenda Suggars at 791-8181.

Benefit concert

Macedonia Baptist Church is hosting a gospel concert for AIDS and education at 6 p.m. **Sunday**. The concert will feature gospel recording artist Derrick Monk.

Concert proceeds are tax deductible and will benefit RHEMA Connections, Inc., a non-profit, faith based organization that services Augusta and the CSRA in the areas of HIV/AIDS Intervention & Education and Adult Literacy.

The concert is at 1828 Wrightsboro Rd. For more information, call 364-6135.

Volunteers wanted

Volunteers are needed for the annual Arts in the Heart art festival **Sept. 16-18** in Augusta.

To volunteer call Mary Jones at 791-2014 or 791-6082.

Support group

The Healthy Living with Diabetes Support Group meets at 5 p.m. the last **Thursday** of every month in the Eisenhower Army Medical Center conference room, inside the dining room on the third floor of the hospital. The group is open to the public.

For more information call Maj. Victor Yu at 787-2143.

Ribbon cutting

There will be a ribbon cutting for the Joint Network Node at 3 p.m. **July 14** at Brant Hall. For information, call Scott Armstrong at 791-2955.

Babysitter training

The American Red Cross is offering a babysitter training class from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Saturday** at Youth Services, Building 45410.

Participants must be ages 11-15 years; cost is \$25.

For information or to register, call 724-8481.

Dinner theatre

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre presents "The World Goes Round," the songs of Kander and Ebb, **July 15, 16, 21, 22** and **23**. Dinner begins at 7 p.m., show at 8 p.m.

Cost is \$33 for civilians; \$31 for retirees, Department of Army civilians and E-8 and above; and \$25 for E-7 and below; or \$20 for show only.

For reservations call 793-8552 or buy online at **www.fortgordon.com**.

Membership breakfast

The AFCEA, AUSA and SCRA annual general membership breakfast is 7 a.m. **today** at the Gordon Club.

The guest speaker is Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commander.

Cost for the buffet is \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. For information or tickets, call Robbe Ostby at 793-3500, Amy Tuschen at 791-7815, or Ron Saeger at 364-9800.

Patriotic celebration

The Abilene Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir and Orches-

tra presents a patriotic celebration titled "One Nation Under God" at 7 p.m. **July 3**.

The church is at 3917 Washington Rd. in Martinez. For information, call 869-1774.

Realignment

The School of Information Technology, Enlisted Training Division and the 15th Signal Brigade is having a ceremony at 8 a.m. **Monday** at Dixon Hall, Building 24801 (near parking lot).

Col. Randall Mackey, the commandant for the Leader College for Information Technology and Col. Lori Sussman, 15th Sig. Bde. commander, will unveil a new sign marking the realignment of the ETD under the 15th Sig. Bde.

For information, call Kim Hannon at 791-2326.

Dinosaurs at Fort Discovery

A dinosaur exhibit is making an encore appearance at Fort Discovery **Saturday** to **Oct. 30**.

Admission to the exhibit is free with paid general admission to Fort Discovery. Operating hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$6 children, seniors and military; members admitted free. For information go to **www.NationalScienceCenter.org** or call 821-0200.

Free barbecue

The annual Grovetown barbecue is noon-3 p.m. **July 4** at Goodale Park on Wrightsboro Road in Grovetown.

Admission is free; take-out plates are \$5. For information, call 863-4576.

Skydiving trip

Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers is holding a skydiving trip **July 23**.

Cost is \$119-\$129 and includes instruction and one tandem jump. For information, call Spc. Marshall Phelps at (706) 564-2282.

Off limits list

Effective Aug. 3, 2004, the Fort Gordon Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board imposed off-limits sanction against Knights Inn, 210 Boy

Scout Rd., for illegal drug trafficking and use occurring on the property.

In accordance with AR 190-24, military personnel are prohibited from entering this establishment as long as this order is in force.

This restriction will remain in effect for an indefinite period. Violations by military personnel of this order may result in disciplinary action under UCMJ.

For details, call 791-2572.

Intern program

The White House Internship Program is now accepting applications.

Interns may serve a term in the fall, spring or summer; all candidates must be 18 years of age, hold U.S. citizenship, and be enrolled in a college or university.

For information go to **http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/wh-intern.html**.

The fall 2005 application deadline is July 1. For information, call Ann Gray at (202)456-2502 or e-mail **agrayint@WHO.eop.gov**.

Warrant officer candidates wanted

The Army is looking for highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airman to fill its Warrant Officer ranks. Positions are open in all 45 specialties if you qualify. Applicants with less than 12 years active federal service are encouraged to apply.

For information go to **www.usarec.army.mil/warrant**, or call (800)223-3735, ext. 60328.

At the Movies

The Signal Theater is open Thursday-Sunday. Shows begin at 6:30 p.m. Children 12 and over and adults are \$3.50. Children 6-11 are \$1.75. Children under 5 are free. For movie listings and times, call 791-3982.

June 24-30
Friday - Kingdom of Heaven (R)
Saturday - Monster-in-Law (PG-13)
Sunday - Monster-in-Law (PG-13)
Thursday - Unleashed (R)

Note: Attendance at Fort Gordon's movie theater is strictly limited to authorized Post Exchange patrons.

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Fishing tournament

Outdoor Recreation is hosting a bass tournament from daylight-2 p.m. **Sunday** at Butler Reservoir.

Cost is \$20; \$10 for Sportsman's Complex members. For information, call 791-5078.

Skeet tournament

The Commander's Cup skeet tournament is 9 a.m.-5 p.m. **Saturday** at the Tactical Advantage Sportsman's Complex.

The event is for five-person teams; registration required. Call 791-5078.

Runners wanted

Runners are wanted for the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon 10 Miler Team.

The race is held in October at the Pentagon.

The team will begin a rigorous training schedule after the Independence Day holiday, culminating in 50-60 miles run per week.

Male and female runners are wanted, civilian or military.

For information, call Sgt. 1st Class Robert Shuttleworth at 791-7524.

Talent show

Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers is having a talent show at 7 p.m. **Wednesday** at the Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre.

Admission is \$2. For information, call 791-7862.

No fishing

Butler Reservoir, on the eastern boundary of Fort Gordon, is off-limits to fishing, except for sanctioned fishing tournaments. For information, call the IOC at 791-9748/9749.

Golf program

Gordon Lakes Golf Course is having a summer Junior Golf Program from 6-7 p.m. **Monday to Thursday, July 25 to 28 and Aug. 29 to Sept. 1.**

Cost is \$5 per session and includes clubs. Program limited to first 30 youths ages 8-17; sign up by the first of each month by calling the pro shop at 791-2433.

Skydiving trip

Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers is holding a skydiving trip **July 23.**

Cost is \$119-\$129 and includes instruction and one tandem jump.

For information, call Spc. Marshall Phelps at (706) 564-2282.

Pool open

The Courtyard Pool is now open, noon-6:45 p.m. Thursday to Tuesday; closed Wednesday. The pool is open to all ranks and grades.

Pointes West open

Pointes West Army Recreation Area at Clarks Hill Lake has canoe and pedal boat rentals, a swim beach, camping, and campers and cottages for rent.

For information and reservations, call 541-1057.

Nemechek cruises to sixth-place finish

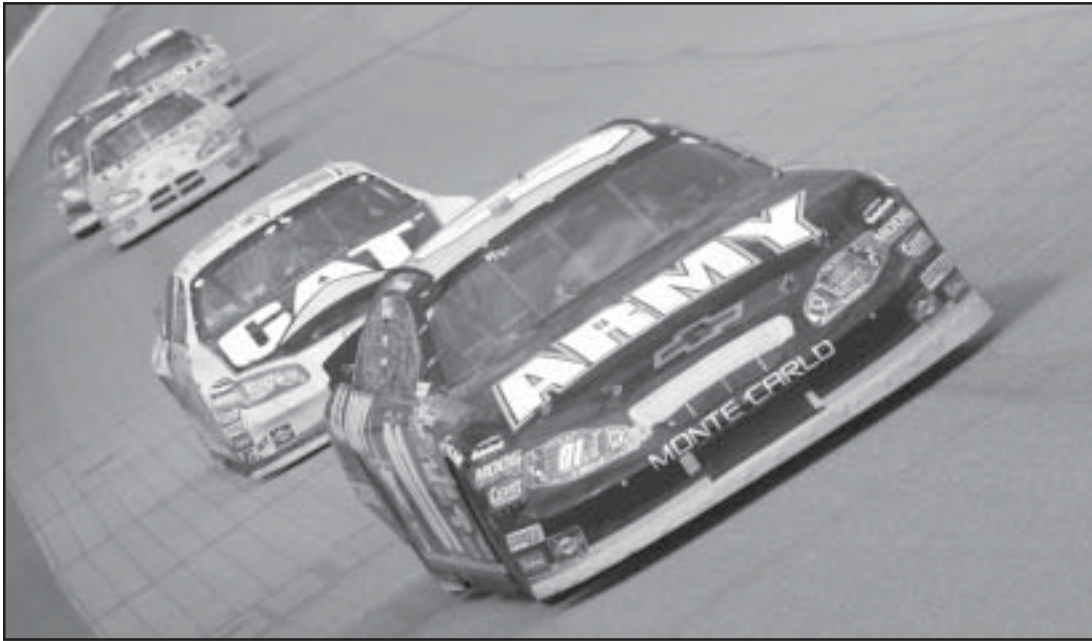
David Ferroni

Army News Service

BROOKLYN, Mich. — Once Joe Nemechek moved into the top 10 on Lap 87 of 200 in Sunday's Nextel Cup race, he never looked back and went on to take the checkered flag with a solid sixth-place finish.

The U.S. Army Chevrolet driver ran a consistently strong race that saw him post his second top-10 result in as many weeks.

"This is how we're supposed to be performing," said Nemechek, who collected a season-high third-place finish last week at Pocono Raceway. "We really feel like we gave a few races away this year and now we're back on track. Our qualifying effort's back — everything's back. For some reason we've missed it for a few races, but not now." Nemechek started Sunday's



Courtesy photo

Joe Nemechek's 01 Army Chevrolet out front during Sunday's Batman Begins 400 at Michigan International Raceway. Nemechek finished the race in sixth place.

Batman Begins 400 in the 11th position but fell back in the opening stages of the race due to a loose-handling race car. An

early change to the 01 Chevy set the machine in motion and Nemechek quickly drove toward the top 10.

Running third with just 30 laps remaining, a final yellow-flag was waved and Nemechek brought the 01 Chevy down pit

Military travel discounts now available to Australia

Tim Hipps

Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Military travelers can now purchase vacations to Australia for about the same cost as a getaway to Europe by going to <http://www.offdutytravel.com>.

Authorized Morale, Welfare and Recreation patrons can go to the Off Duty Travel Web site and click on Joint Services Travel Specials to begin a step-by-step process for building itineraries to a vacation Down Under. After preparing the itinerary, they can visit a supporting Information, Ticket and Reservation office or Information, Tickets and Tours office to finalize the booking, confirm arrangements and pay for the vacation.

"We're estimating these packages will be 10 to 30 percent less expensive than anything else they're going to be able to find," said Dan Yount, chief of Army Leisure Travel Services at the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

MWR patrons can purchase eight-day trips from Los Angeles to Sydney, including lodging at three- or four-star hotels with some tours, starting as low as \$1,300. It can be even more affordable for Soldiers on Rest and Recuperation leave from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"If someone is on R&R leave out of either Iraq or Afghanistan, the government will fly them any place that is shown as their destination on their leave

orders," Yount explained. "So when they're planning their R&R leave, and enter Sydney, Australia, as the leave destination, the Transportation Office will arrange transportation to Sydney."

The Australian packages are a Combined Army, Navy and Marine Corps ITR/ITT program available to active duty, members of the Reserve component, retired military, family members, and Department of Defense civilians.

"Any authorized MWR patron (who) can provide proof of DoD affiliation is eligible," Yount said. "This kind of a product hasn't been available on a lot of military bases since 1999 when the Army and Navy parted company with commercial travel contractors providing leisure travel services on many installations. And it's never been available at a price this low."

Yount said there always will be fluctuation in pricing based on the season, but noted that there is no bad time to visit Australia.

New York, Los Angeles and Honolulu are the embarkation points. Travelers can make arrangements from their nearest airport as part of the travel package using a Qantas code share partner or they may make their own travel arrangements to those destinations.

Yount said the Australian vacation's affordability is tough to beat.

"We regard this opportunity as a great example of MWR in action providing affordable, top-quality services and products at a price unavailable off base."

Sixteen Soldiers wrestle in U.S. World Team Trials

Tim Hipps

Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Sixteen All-Army wrestlers competed in the 2005 U.S. World Team Trials Saturday and Sunday at the Hilton Coliseum in Ames, Iowa.

Three Soldiers received a bye directly to the championship finals by virtue of their victories in the 2005 U.S. National Wrestling Championships April 29 and 30 at Las Vegas. As reigning national champions, Staff Sgt. Dremiel Byers, Spc. Iris Smith and Sgt. Tina George will compete Sunday in a best-of-three format against their respective weight-class winners of Saturday's challenge tournament.

"The advantage is that they won't have to wrestle three or four matches in the first one-day tournament," said Staff Sgt. Shon Lewis, All-Army coach. "You would much rather wrestle one title fight than four title fights."

Byers, one of only four Americans to win a Greco-Roman world championship, defeated New York Athletic Club's Russ Davie in the heavyweight finale at Las Vegas. Normally low-key Byers flashed five fingers after being awarded a plaque for winning the title, signifying his fifth national championship.

"Getting back (to the World

Team Trials) gives me an opportunity to measure myself against some of the top wrestlers in the world," said Byers, who won a world title in 2002 at 264.5 pounds.

Smith, who finished seventh in the 2000 World Championships, won her fourth national crown by defeating defending champion Ali Bernard of New Ulm, Minn., in the women's 158.5-pound freestyle finale.

George, a two-time silver medalist in the World Champi-

onships, won her third national title with a victory over Sunkist Kids' Marcie Van Dusen in the 121-pound division.

Two-time U.S. Olympic Trials winner and four-time national champion Staff Sgt. Keith Sieracki moved up to the 185-pound Greco-Roman weight class, and lost the national championship finals to New York Athletic Club's Brad Vering, a 2004 Olympian. Sieracki will return to his traditional 163-pound division for the challenge tournament in the

World Team Trials.

Staff Sgt. Marcel Cooper finished as runner-up in the Greco-Roman 145.5-pound division in the national championships, losing the finale to Gator Wrestling Club's Harry Lester, who upset top-seeded Sgt. Oscar Wood in the semifinals.

Cooper, a former member of the All-Marine wrestling team and a national champion in 2001, battled a stomach virus throughout the tourney. Wood also lost to Sgt. Glenn Garrison, who finished third in their

road.

"We got two tires on that last stop with 25 laps to go and for some reason my car got really tight in and loose off the corners," said Nemechek. "I went to pass the (No.) 97 and he took the air off the spoiler and got me loose and three or four or five cars got by me. So then I had to work to pass all of them back before the end of the race."

"I think our U.S. Army Chevy was better than sixth-place," he continued. "We got up there to the front and I thought we'd be a top-two or three finishing car today."

"We'll take it. It's a good run. We're back on track. I really thank the U.S. Army and MB2 Motorsports. I've got great cars and great engines — we're on a roll."

The Nextel Cup Series will compete at Infineon Raceway road course in Sonoma, Calif., Sunday.



Photo by Rick Williamson

Thanks

Lt. Col. Johnny Sokolosky (right), commander of the 73rd Ordnance Battalion, presented a certificate of appreciation to Paul Gamsby, general manager of the Augusta Lynx, June 14. The certificate was to thank the Lynx for their support of the 73rd Ord. Bn. rappel team, which rappelled from the rafters with the colors before each Lynx home game this season.



Photo by Tim Hipps

Staff Sgt. Marcel Cooper (right) finishes runner-up to Gator Wrestling Club's Harry Lester in the Greco-Roman 66-kilogram/145.5-pound finale of the 2005 U.S. National Wrestling Championships April 30 at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

weight class at nationals. Wood took a break from wrestling after competing in the 2004 Olympic Games and has been working his way back to top form.

Capt. Eric Albarracin, normally a freestyle wrestler who competed in Greco-Roman for the first time in the national championships, finished third in the 121-pound division.

Staff Sgt. Duane Martin, Sgt. Jess Hargrave, Pfc. Keith Ahearn and Capt. Neal Rodak earned berths in the World Team Trials by finishing among the top seven in their weight classes in the national championships.

Staff Sgt. James Johnson, Sgt. Jess Hargrave, Sgt. Albert Sankey, Sgt. Kevin Ahearn, Spc. Josh Habeck and Pfc. Jermaine Hodge, who all earned berths via other qualifying tournaments, also will represent the Army in the World Team Trials.

"We have a possibility with the females to have five individuals from (the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program) go to the World Championships this year," Lewis said. "We have a lot of wrestlers who can get it done."

Winners of the World Team Trials will compete for Team USA in the 2005 World Wrestling Championships at Budapest, Hungary, Sept. 27 through Oct. 2.

Spectrum



(Above) The Soldiers were shown this spectacular view of Washington from the office of Speaker of the House. (Right) Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division, the Old Guard, prepare for a changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns. (Below) While walking through Arlington National Cemetery, the Soldiers saw 141 gravestones of fallen Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom Soldiers. More than 260,000 servicemembers are buried at Arlington.



Photos by Sgt. Lyle Dillie



Injured troops make DC pilgrimage

Sgt. Lyle Dillie
EAMC public affairs

A group of Soldiers made a pilgrimage of sorts recently, designed to heal their souls while their wounds also healed.

From June 7 to 9, the Army Chief of Chaplain Office and Eisenhower Army Medical Center Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care sponsored a trip to Washington, D.C., for nine Soldiers injured in Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

"This program is a designated offering that is supported by Army Chaplains worldwide," said Chaplain (Col.) Mark Fritch, chief of DMPC and Southeast Regional Command Chaplain, "to support wounded Soldiers from Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom."

"The purpose is also so Soldiers can find comfort for healing through the outpouring of faith given by the Chaplain community," he said.

Chaplain (Capt.) Steve Munson and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Brad Fipps organized the trip.

Early on June 7, the chaplains and Soldiers left for Washington. The next morning they arrived at Arlington National Cemetery to pay respect for the fallen and learn how their fellow Soldiers are honored. Lori Calvillo, Arlington National Cemetery public affairs office, prepared a personal tour through Arlington with Tom Stoppard, Arlington's historian.

Stoppard took the group down the road from the main building to a small spot at Ar-

lington to show where their fallen comrades are buried.

"In these three rows there are 141 now, with eight or nine more scheduled," he explained, "right now there is about 10 percent from the Global War on Terrorism buried here. The other 90 percent choose to go back where they are from, where their family is at."

After witnessing the Changing of the Guard Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the group got a glimpse inside the guard station. There Staff Sgt. Angel Espanda, relief commander, 3rd U.S. Infantry, the Old Guard, showed the group tricks to get the uniform to look nice and the procedures for guarding the tomb 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Moving on, they went to see the "Faces of the Fallen" exhibit being showcased at Women in Military Service for America Memorial. More than 1,300 artistic portraits were on display honoring servicemembers who have died in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

Many of the Soldiers on the trip recognized and gave stories about individual Soldiers in the portraits.

After touring Arlington, the Soldiers dined at a restaurant across from the Capitol. The restaurant was filled with prominent businessmen, dignitaries, congressmen and senators. Congressman Mike Rodgers (Mich.) and Congressman Dan Boren (Okla.) noticed the Soldiers' arrival, and came over to thank them for their service and

sacrifice. They asked if the group needed any help to make their stay in Washington special.

Rodgers invited the Soldier to his office and arranged a personal tour of the Capitol Building.

Bypassing all the lines in the Capitol, Lauren Battaglia, an intern for Rodgers, gave them a tour of the historic building. The tour ended with a spectacular view of Washington from the office of the Speaker of the House, where Rodgers rejoined the group.

Asked why he was so excited to help ensure the group was taken care of during the trip, he replied, "These Soldiers are part of a long line of Americans who have made sacrifices to protect the freedom of our great democracy. Giving them a tour of the nation's Capitol building is one small way to express the gratitude of America, and an opportunity to let them see democracy at work."

"It is my hope that when these brave men walk the halls once walked by our founding fathers, they will know that their sacrifices are recognized and never forgotten by this nation," he said.

At the end of the tour the Soldiers were given a chance to meet their congressmen from their home state.

The Soldiers enjoyed the trip to the nation's capital.

"Experiencing our nation's capital on my own would have taken years," said one Soldier, "It was worth every moment we spent, just seeing history."



A Soldier looks at the more than 1,400 portraits put together to honor Soldiers who have died in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts, in the "Faces of the Fallen" Exhibit being showcased at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.